Ticketless train travellers in Bihar

2166. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of train passengers in Bihar travel without ticket;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure the entry of authorized ticket holders only in trains, and that the reserved seat passengers are not harassed by unauthorized passengers; and

(d) the annual revenue loss suffered by the Railways due to ticketless travellers and the amount collected from the defaulters, in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The extent of ticketless travel is not quantifiable. However, intensive checks have been done over Eastern, North Eastern, Northeast Frontier and South Eastern Railways, the portions of which are serving the State of Bihar.

(c) In addition to manning of reserved coaches by ticket checking staff, intensive drives are regularly conducted by Commercial and Vigilance departments in association with the Police against ticketless/irregular travel and also to prevent entry of unauthorized passengers in reserved compartments. Unauthorized passengers are dealt with as per the relevant provisions of law.

(d) Ticket checking on the Railways is a continuous activity. However, the loss suffered due to ticketless travellers which go undetected cannot be assessed. State-wise figures are not maintained.

Rail electrification between Kharagpur and Bhubaneswar

2167. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electrification between Kharagpur and Bhubaneswar is getting delayed due to shortage of funds;

(b) whether it is also a fact that allocation for the purpose for the year 2001-2002 was reduced; and

(c) if so, what steps the Railways are planning, to achieve the target?